

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 NIC-01 IO-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /122 W

----- 073480

R 161453 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0946

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN SW DA

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RECOGNITION OF DPRK

REF: SEOUL 1601

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE OF GOS VIEWS OF DPRK RECOGNITION SAYS SWEDEN WILL ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DPRK IN EARLY APRIL. HE SAYS SWEDEN WILL NOT OPEN A MISSION IN PYONGYANG BUT COVER CAPITAL FROM ANOTHER POST -- PROBABLY PEKING. DPRK TRADE MISSION IS IN STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK AS A PRELIMINARY TO RECOGNITION STEPS. END SUMMARY

1. BY COINCIDENCE AT ABOUT SAME TIME ROK FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE TO CHARGE SEOUL, CHARGE HERE ENCOUNTERED EKEUS (PRIVATE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTER WICKMAN) AT SOCIAL OCCASION AND ASKED HIM ABOUT STATE OF PLAY ON GOS RECOGNITION OF DPRK. EKEUS SAID PRESENT PLAN WAS TO DISCUSS DPRK RECOGNITION AT END- OF- MARCH MEETING OF NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SWEDEN EXPECTED TO PROCEED TO RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, I. E., EARLY IN APRIL.

2. EKEUS SAID GOS STILL HOPED TO HAVE SEVERAL NORDIC COUNTRIES

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MOVE MORE OR LESS TOGETHER, BUT NOTHING WAS CERTAIN. SWEDEN MIGHT WIND UP LEADING THE PACK, HE SAID.

3. EKEUS CONFIRMED CHARGE'S INFORMATION THAT A DPRK TRADE MISSION WAS IN STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK. HE CONCEDED THIS WAS PART OF PROCEDURE LEADING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND A DISTASTEFUL PART SO FAR AS SWEDEN WAS CONCERNED. EKEUS SAID THERE IS ALMOST NO BASIS FOR EXPANSION OF NORTH KOREA-SWEDISH COMMERCE AND TRADE MISSION VISIT, WHICH PYONGYANG INSISTED UPON, IS REALLY A WASTE OF TIME. HE SAID GOS WILL NOT OPEN A MISSION IN PYONGYANG AND DPRK WILL BE COVERED BY AN AMBASSADOR ALREADY ON POST - MOST LIKELY SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING.

4. CHARGE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF IMMENSE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM EKEUS REFLECTED, HE FOUND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY GOS WAS PRESSING AHEAD. EKEUS SAID THAT "POLITICALLY SPEAKING" THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK. HE SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF DPRK WAS LAST STEP IN TYDING UP SWEDEN'S RECOGNITION POLICY ON DIVIDED COUNTRIES AND THERE WAS NO ARGUMENT THAT COULD LOGICALLY BE MADE FOR HOLDING UP ON DPRK.

5. CHARGE SAID SWEDEN MIGHT WELL JEPORDIZE ITS POSITION IN NNSC. EKEUS CONCEDED THIS WAS CORRECT AND THAT POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED WITHIN GOS BEFORE DECISION WAS MADE TO RECOGNIZE PYONGYANG.

6 COMMENT: WHILE EKEUS IS NOT POLICY- MAKING OFFICIAL, HE HAS AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 4 REFTTEL, EMBASSY CONCLUDES FROM EKEUS COMMENTS THAT GOS HAS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM NNSC, DARED TO GO AHEAD ON RECOGNITION AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY EXPLICIT WARNING.
OLSEN

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